

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-22 that are pending in the instant application.

Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, along with copies of the references cited therein.

Claims 10-17, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ahlfors*, U.S. Patent 3,939,065. Specifically, the Examiner contends that *Ahlfors* discloses "at least one barrier member extending radially from the stator to the rotary screen whereby the accepted fiber suspension is substantially prevented from tangentially passing the at least one barrier member." (Official Action, ¶ 3.) *Ahlfors*, however, discloses pulsation blades 38' that are "mounted on the supporting frame 6'" wherein "[o]ne or more of these blades 38' may be hollow and devised for adding of flushing water outwards towards the screen drum 1' for extra cleaning of its screening organ at the same time as the water being flushed through the drum dilutes the pulp on the outside of the drum to its full height." (Fig. 29; col. 6, lns. 56-62.) Each of the pulsation blades is only attached to the stator at its two ends and does not extend axially along the entire length of the stator. An area exists behind the pulsation blades, which enables fiber suspension to move along the inner side of the blade.

Ahlfors does not disclose barrier/pulse elements that extend in the axial direction along the entire stator, dividing the accept chamber into a number of smaller accept cells to force the accept to either move axially to the accept outlet or radially to the screen means. Also, because the fiber suspension can move along the inner side of the pulsation blades, the purported barrier element does not prevent fiber suspension from "tangentially passing said at least one barrier member," as recited in claim 10. (Application, ¶¶ 18, 33.) As

such, applicants submit that the rejection should be withdrawn as to claim 10.

The rejection should also be withdrawn as to claims 11-17, 21 and 22, inasmuch as each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 10.

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahlfors. As previously noted, Ahlfors fails to teach "said stator including at least one barrier member fixedly attached to said stator and extending axially along the length of said stator, said at least one barrier member extending radially from said stator to said rotary screen whereby said accepted fiber suspension is substantially prevented from tangentially passing said at least one barrier member," as recited in claim 10. Nothing has been asserted as remedying this deficiency in Ahlfors, and as such, applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

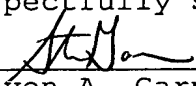
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By


Steven A. Garner

Registration No.: 52,475
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicants